

In the claims

1. (Withdrawn and currently amended) A method of protecting an animal from disease, said method comprising:

a. producing, in host cell, one or more a disease-related recombinant viral protein or peptide from ~~an~~ a disease causing viral agent that causes the disease in a transformed host cell, wherein the recombinant viral protein or peptide consists of a sequence for a white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) or Taura Syndrome Virus (TSV) protein selected from the group consisting of VP24, VP28, VP26, VP19, LGBP and TSVcapsid protein; and

b. delivering, as a feed or feed additive, the recombinant viral protein or peptide to an animal suspected of being infected by the disease causing viral agent, wherein ~~delivery of~~ the recombinant viral protein inhibits or retards binding of the disease causing viral agent that causes the disease in one or more cells of the animal.

2. – 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said producing in a host cell comprises transforming a host cell with a nucleic acid encoding the disease-related protein to form a transformed cell.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the host cell is chosen from bacteria, algae, yeast, fungi, insects, animals, plants, and tissue cultures of any of the above.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein the host cell is an alga.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein the host cell is a yeast.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein the host cell is a bacterium.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the disease-related protein is a fusion protein.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the recombinant viral protein or peptide is a truncated version of the recombinant viral protein or peptide having similar binding affinities to the untruncated recombinant viral peptide or protein. ~~viral protein comprises one or more segments of white spot syndrome virus.~~

13.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A feed for an animal comprising one or more a recombinant viral protein or peptide capable of reducing or inhibiting binding of ~~to~~ a disease-causing agent in one or more cells of the animal, wherein the recombinant viral protein or peptide consists of a sequence for a white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) or Taura Syndrome Virus (TSV) protein selected from the group consisting of VP24, VP28, VP26, VP19, LGBP and TSV capsid protein.

18. (Currently amended) The feed of claim 17, wherein the recombinant viral protein or peptide is a truncated version of the recombinant viral protein or peptide having similar binding affinities to the untruncated recombinant viral peptide or protein. ~~comprises at least a portion of a viral protein.~~

19. (Currently amended) The feed of claim 17 further comprising host cells in whole or broken form wherein the recombinant viral protein or peptide was expressed in the host cells. ~~The feed of claim 18, wherein the recombinant protein or peptide comprises white spot syndrome virus sequences.~~

20. (Currently amended) The feed of claim 19, wherein the host cells are members selected from the group consisting of bacteria, algae, yeast, and fungi. ~~recombinant protein or peptide comprises sequences chosen from one or more of VP24, VP28, VP26, and VP19.~~

21. (Currently amended) A feed additive for an animal comprising a one or more recombinant viral protein or peptide capable of reducing or inhibiting binding of ~~to~~ a disease-causing agent in one or more cells of the animal, wherein the recombinant viral protein or peptide consists of a sequence of a white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) or Taura Syndrome Virus protein selected from the group consisting of VP24, VP28, VP26, VP19, LGBP and TSV.

22. (Currently amended) The feed additive of claim 21, further comprising host cells in whole or broken form wherein the recombinant viral protein or peptide was expressed in the host cells. ~~which is fed to an animal as whole cells or broken cells.~~

23. (Currently amended) The feed additive of claim 21, wherein the recombinant viral protein or peptide ~~which~~ is fed to an animal as purified or semi-purified protein, or encapsulated versions of these.

24. (Currently amended) The feed additive of claim 21, wherein the recombinant viral protein or peptide is a truncated version of the protein or peptide having similar binding affinities to the peptide or protein. ~~comprising a recombinant protein or peptide comprising at least a portion of a viral protein.~~

25. (Currently amended) The feed additive of claim 24, further comprising host cells in whole or broken form wherein the recombinant viral protein or peptide was expressed in the host cells. ~~wherein the recombinant protein or peptide comprises white spot syndrome virus sequences.~~

26. (Currently amended) The feed additive of claim 25, wherein the host cells are members selected from the group consisting of bacteria, algae, yeast, and fungi. ~~wherein the recombinant protein or peptide comprises sequences from one or more of VP24, VP28, VP26, and VP19.~~

27.-31 (Cancelled)

32. (New) The feed of claim 17, wherein the animal is a crustacean.

33. (New) The feed of claim 32, wherein the crustacean is shrimp.

34. (New) The feed of claim 20, wherein algae is *Chlorella vulgaris*.

35. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the feed further comprises the transformed host cells, in whole or broken form, wherein the recombinant viral protein or peptide was expressed in the transformed host cells.

36. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the animal is a crustacean.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the crustacean is shrimp.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein algae is *Chlorella vulgaris*.